



# Solid Waste Update

Volume 2; Number 2

March 1999

## Facility Focus

### **Solid Waste Management in Olathe**

by Joe Cronin

**T**he feature facility for this issue is the City of Olathe Municipal Solid Waste Transfer Station. The transfer station (TS) opened October 1996 primarily to serve the City of Olathe which has population of 80,000. The design and operation of this facility represents a unique partnership between the private sector and government.

The permit was issued to N.R. Hamm Quarry, Inc. (Hamm) which operates the TS building. Hamm constructed the TS which is located in the Lone Elm Industrial Park in the southwest part of the city. The building has a office area and concrete tipping floor with hopper to load the transfer trucks which use a drive through loading bay with truck weigh scale. A knuckle-boom crane is used to arrange and compact waste in the transfer trailers. Clearance height for the tipping area was enhanced by using aircraft type doors which eliminates the track for overhead doors. The facility, which was designed to process up to 1000 tons per day, managed 265 tons per operating day last year. Thus, during 1998 over 82,000 tons of solid waste was processed through this facility. Hamm also provides the transfer transportation for the 45-mile trip to the municipal solid waste landfill in Jefferson County.

City staff operates the scale at the front gate office. The TS is open from 7:00 to 4:00 M-F and 7:00 to 12:00 Saturday for a total of 50 hours per week. Trucks are weighed in and out and billed accordingly. The City operates the solid waste collection service in the city limits. City collected waste, which comes from residential and commercial sources, accounts for 70% of the solid waste brought to the TS. Private collectors deliver the other 30% which consists of commercial and out of city residential waste. The City also operates the drop off areas for recyclables, yard waste, and small trash loads brought by individuals.

The TS, which was constructed on a 10-acre site, had a landscape requirement in the special use permit. The site, which had approximately 20 existing trees until 1998, needed additional trees to comply with the special use permit. Therefore, 180 more trees were planted last year. The trees were provided at no cost to the City of Olathe by the Tree Growing Out Station in Lindsborg through a grant provided by the National Tree Trust.

This facility, which is one of the largest in Kansas, has been in compliance with applicable state solid waste regulations from opening day in October 1996 through 1998. The TS, is well designed and operated. It is positioned to serve the needs of the community for many years.

# Director's Corner

By Bill Bider

By the time you receive this newsletter, we will be in the middle of a busy legislative session. Several solid waste issues are being considered by the 1999 Legislature. Because of a very busy legislative agenda and limited time, it is possible that some of the solid waste bills that are introduced will not be addressed. The key areas where statutory change could occur this year include:

**Tipping Fee Returned to \$1.50** - The continuation of the solid waste grant programs and “*Kansas Don’t Spoil It*” public education program beyond state fiscal year 2000 requires that the landfill tipping fee be returned to its original level of \$1.50 per ton. (Detailed information on this subject can be provided upon request.)

**Solid Waste Disposal Without a Permit** - This is a KDHE initiative to expand the department’s authority to approve of various emergency disposal activities without requiring a solid waste permit. Current department statutory authority is very limited and does not allow certain emergency conditions to be addressed such as major storms, floods, transportation accidents, etc.

**Transfer of Landfill Permits** - Current law does not allow any transfer of solid waste permits from one private company to another. This KDHE initiative would allow the transfer of landfill permits in cases where the landfill is only used for waste generated by an on-site industrial operation. Such landfills are considered an integral part of whole industrial complexes and no off-site waste is deposited in these landfills.

**Land Ownership Requirement for Certain Landfills** - KDHE proposes a new requirement that permit applicants must own the land where a new municipal solid waste landfill will be built. Existing landfills on leased property would be grand-fathered into the permitted system. This requirement could also be applied to certain industrial landfills where groundwater monitoring is necessary.

**Speculative Accumulation of Waste Materials** - There is legislative interest in establishing new KDHE authority to take action when a person speculatively accumulates waste materials hoping to someday sell or use the materials. Types of materials which are often stockpiled resulting in problems related to human health, the environment, and aesthetics include railroad ties, wood pallets, drums, and even recyclables.

Other legislation is being discussed by a variety of interested parties addressing issues such as the definition of construction & demolition waste, and location requirements for MSW landfills. The next Solid Waste Update Newsletter will report on the outcome of the 1999 session.

***In 1997 Kansas landfilled 89% of its solid waste .***

Solid Waste Update



Kansas Department of Health & Environment

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# Common Compliance Problems at Small Arid Landfills

by Bob Medina

In October 1997, new regulations went into effect which small arid landfills must follow in order to remain open. During this past year, operational practices at most landfills have improved. However, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) field staff have noticed common and repeat compliance problems at these small facilities. These observations indicate the need for KDHE to provide more education and training to the operators in order to achieve compliance assuring environmental protection.

The most common problems cited can be loosely divided into either operational problems or recording-keeping difficulties. Common operating problems include too large of a working face, insufficient daily cover, and inadequate compaction, intermediate cover, and run-on/run-off controls.

Too large of a working face and/or insufficient daily cover may create additional problems such as excessive litter and an increase in the rodent population. Inadequate compaction may result in the working slope becoming too steep for proper diversion of rainfall. Both inadequate compaction/insufficient cover may also contribute to erosion and produce excessive leachate.

A related factor is the availability of equipment at the landfill. The lack of proper equipment needed to operate the landfill may increase the potential for accidents and limit the operator's ability to properly manage the waste. A worse case scenario would be the situation in which insufficient daily cover and inadequate run-on/run-off controls result in the generation of additional leachate. This could result in a release to groundwater, jeopardize the landfill's exempt status, and require compliance with groundwater corrective action regulations.

Record-keeping is another area where problems have been observed. Many operators are expected to perform a variety of duties on a daily basis such as monitoring the incoming loads, screening for inappropriate materials and directing traffic to minimize dumping in inappropriate areas. Each duty is necessary to ensure the landfill is efficiently operated and is not receiving inappropriate wastes. Although it may seem that the time necessary for good record-keeping could be better spent on other duties, having the documentation available will allow the operator to provide quick responses to questions and concerns raised by the public and KDHE inspectors. Each day brings changes and challenges for all small arid landfills. Operators are not only asked to manage the equipment, run the landfill, and maintain records; they are also asked to protect their landfill from unlawful disposal of hazardous wastes. Successfully meeting these challenges will require the cooperative efforts of the landfill operator and the entire community. With everyone working together, the landfill can be operated in an efficient manner and in compliance with all applicable regulations. If you have any questions about the regulations, please contact the Bureau of Waste Management (785) 296-1600 or your District Office for assistance.



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## GRANT PROGRAMS

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The KDHE Bureau of Waste Management will be offering the following grant programs in 1999. Application guides and forms are now available. If you have questions on any of the grant programs or would like to be on the mailing list to receive grant announcements, please contact the Bureau of Waste Management at (785) 296-1600 or by e-mail at [ccolglaz@kdhe.state.ks.us](mailto:ccolglaz@kdhe.state.ks.us).

Grant Program	Local Match Requirement	Application Deadlines	Description of Grant Program
Solid Waste Management Planning Grants	40%	May 14, 1999	Funding for assistance in preparing and updating solid waste management plans, waste characterization studies, and other solid waste planning related studies.
Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Grants	40%	May 14, 1999 *August 13, 1999 *December 10, 1999	Funding to assist in the startup and first year of operation and development of HHW programs.
Small Quantity Hazardous Waste Generator Grants (SQG)	25%	May 14, 1999 *August 13, 1999	Funding to assist in the development and implementation of small quantity generator programs.
Competitive Plan Implementation Grants Round #8 Round #9	25%	April 16, 1999 October 22, 1999	Funding for the development and operation of recycling, source reduction, waste minimization, and solid waste management education programs.

\* Subject to availability of funds.

## *Recycling and Composting WORKS!*

By Kent Foerster

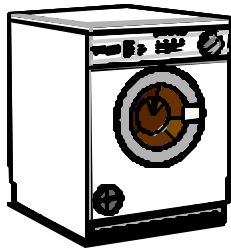
The fifth annual Kansas Conference on Solid Waste Management, **Recycling and Composting WORKS!**, will be held on the Bethany College campus in Lindsborg, March 16 - 18, 1999. Dr. William Rathje (pronounce Rath jay), original garbage archeologist, and Director of the Arizona Garbology Project, will be the keynote speaker launching the conference this year. He will be reviewing the Garbology project and the new book, Use Less Stuff, which he co-authored. Dr. Rathje is also the author of the Book Rubbish!




The conference includes:

- ▼ the second year of full day pre-conference **training workshops for recycling and composting** facility operators and program managers on Tuesday, March 16<sup>th</sup>. Beginner and advanced training and business tracks have been added this year. The recycling program roundtable has been brought back and expanded.
- ▼ the **Recycling and Composting WORKS! Program Hall of Fame** - The exhibit hall will have a section for Kansas programs to display and share their materials.
- ▼ continued recycling and composting tracks on Wednesday and **major composting and recycling**

**demonstrations** that afternoon. The recycling demonstrations will include recycling of cars and appliances.



- ✓ a **Conference hotel** established in McPherson (Best Western Holiday Manor) for more opportunities to network. Shuttle service from the hotel to the conference site in Lindsborg is available.

- ✓ Wednesday evening (March 17<sup>th</sup>) will feature the **Kansas Recyclers awards**  **dinner** and Governor Bill Graves is expected to attend. The dinner will be held at the Best Western Holiday Manor in McPherson and is **included** in the conference price.

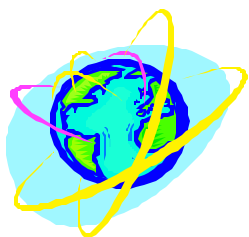
- ✓ Thursday (March 18<sup>th</sup>) will feature regulations,

grants, and Kansas Don't Spoil It! updates. A special **environmental education** participatory program, by the Kansas Association for Conservation and Environmental Educators (KACEE) will be followed by **Kansas & International Success Stories from leaders of Ghana in Africa and Suriname in Central America.**



- ✓ Kansas vocalist, **Ann Zimmerman** will be the featured musician.

Come learn and network with national and regional leaders and colleagues. See numerous recycling, composting and source reduction exhibits and demonstrations; share your program with others; and eat good food while having fun working together to strengthen Kansas' solid waste programs. Contact Kent Foerster at (785) 296-1540 for additional information.

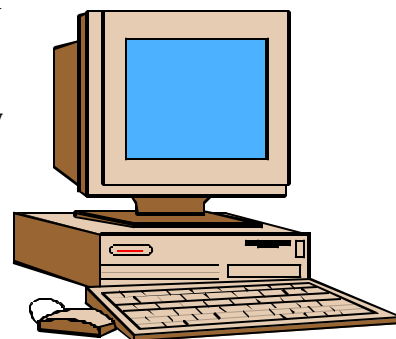
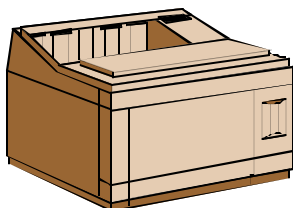


## Solid Waste Information Available on Web Page

The Bureau of Waste Management has published the entire set of solid waste approval and permitting applications, solid waste grant applications and guidance information, and solid waste program technical guidance documents on the KDHE web page, [www.kdhe.state.ks.us/waste](http://www.kdhe.state.ks.us/waste). Both the state solid and hazardous waste regulations also are available.

This web address takes you specifically to the Bureau of Waste Management's home page which includes a link to the BWM download page. On the download page you select the type of information or the form you need. Information can be downloaded with any standard Internet browser. The information can be viewed or printed by using Adobe Acrobat, a freely-distributed reader software.

Persons needing assistance can contact BWM staff by calling 785-296-1600 or 800-282-9790.



## Solid Waste Public Education and Training/KSDI Update

By John Mitchell

On November 24, 1998 a meeting was held in Topeka to discuss the future of solid waste public education and technical training in Kansas. Representatives of cities, counties and others involved in solid waste management participated in the meeting and provided KDHE with guidance on how limited state funds should be used to accomplish the most important goals of the state solid waste program.

Participants were asked to comment on the mix of funding for solid waste public education and training versus grants. The major recommendations of the group were:

- maintain the current level of funding, about \$350,000 into FY 2000. This amount includes all areas of public education and technical training for facility operators;
- continue a public education and awareness program which maintains the **“Kansas Don’t Spoil It”** theme;
- student education and awareness building are important and should be a part of the state’s future educational efforts;
- KDHE should continue to partially fund conferences and workshops in order to keep these events affordable and well-attended;
- state public education efforts should help promote local programs to the extent possible without compromising the ability to maintain necessary statewide activities; and
- KDHE should solicit bids for a new “umbrella contract” for **“Kansas Don’t Spoil It”** activities to include such things as media relations, the development of miscellaneous promotional materials, the development of new radio and newspaper

## Statewide Waste Tire Cleanup Passes One Million Mark

A statewide program to rid Kansas counties of unwanted accumulations of waste tires passed a milestone in January 1999 with one million tires cleaned up since November of 1997. The statewide cleanup is part of a multi-year program to eliminate stockpiles of waste tires generated before July 1, 1999 (pre-law).

The program began in 1992 with grants to Kansas counties and regions for waste tire assessment and cleanup. Over seven million tires have been cleaned up since the waste tire program began. Waste tire management is funded by a \$.50 excise tax new tire sales. The tax will be reduced to \$.25 per tire on July 1, 2001 when the state cleanup program ends and responsibility for waste tire cleanup shifts to counties.

The current phase of the waste tire cleanup program is being performed under direct State contract. Utilizing a single State contract to clean up these tires has eliminated the processing of numerous individual grants to counties. Stockpile cleanup is expected to continue through the end of 1999 as the program shifts to smaller and more remote waste tire accumulations. The final part of the waste tire cleanup program will be amnesty events to provide a last opportunity for Kansas residents to clean out their garages, barns and back lots of unwanted tires. A maximum of 100 tires per household will be accepted during amnesty collections not restricted to pre-law tires. *(Continued on next page)*

*(from previous page)*

Newly generated waste tires from businesses are excluded. Counties must provide a controlled-access collection point and staffing for the event. Amnesty collections may be scheduled over an assigned 30-day period. All tires collected will be removed by the State contractor at the conclusion of the event. Forty counties have applied for the first round of amnesty events.

For information contact Marty Burke (785) 296-1611 or by e-mail at [mburke@kdhe.state.ks.us](mailto:mburke@kdhe.state.ks.us).

## **Groundwater Monitoring Requirements**

### **Information Seminar Announced**



**S**ince the new groundwater monitoring requirements went into effect in October 1997, the Hydrogeologic Unit has been busy assisting the operators of the thirty Small Arid Landfills (SALs) in their efforts to install adequate groundwater monitoring systems. Through the cooperation and hard work of all those involved, great progress has been made. Nearly every SAL now has or will soon have an approved system.

Once a landfill groundwater monitoring system is in place, the tasks of regularly sampling, analyzing, and evaluating the ongoing quality of the groundwater passing beneath a landfill begins. The ability to consistently complete these tasks, as specified in an approved Sampling and Analysis Plan, can be the difference between the continued operation of the landfill as a SAL or the more stringent requirements of assessment monitoring.

In an effort to assist operators of SALs, the Hydrogeologic Unit is announcing the "Groundwater Monitoring at Small Arid Landfills" seminar, to be held March 30, 1999 at the Scott County Fairgrounds. This seminar will provide SAL operators and other interested individuals with important information regarding compliance with the groundwater monitoring requirements of K.A.R. 28-29-103. The seminar will feature an open discussion format, with topics to include:

- " Overview of basic hydrogeological principals
- " Why groundwater monitoring is required at landfills
- " The steps to proper sampling and analysis of groundwater wells
- " Keys to oversight of sampling events
- " Discussion of metal analysis at SALs
- " Reporting requirements following sampling events
- " What happens if contamination is discovered

The Bureau of Waste Management will be contacting counties with more information about the availability of registration packets. Other interested parties may contact Mark Duncan or Scott Nightingale at (785) 296-1591.



## **Solid Waste Management Plans**

### **Have You Completed Your Annual Review?**



**T**o assist and prompt counties and regions to action, the Bureau of Waste Management has increased its attention to the issue of annual reviews of solid waste management plans. The Bureau has begun sending out reminder letters as reviews are due, or in some cases overdue. Staff is available to assist counties and regions with this review process. Technical Guidance Document SW 97-04 was prepared and sent to all counties and regions in February 1998 to assist in the performing reviews and updates. Additional copies or assistance may be obtained by contacting Elizabeth Carreno at (785) 296-1026.



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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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## Beneficial Uses Of Waste Tires

Have you ever had the tires replaced on your vehicle and said "I sure wish there was something that could be done with the tires besides throwing them in a landfill?" The tire dealer probably shared several ideas of other uses that he had heard about.

In accordance with K.S.A. 65-3424 et. seq. and K.A.R. 28-29-29(a) most of these ideas could be considered beneficial uses. The law pre-approves the following beneficial uses: bumpers for boat docks, playground equipment, silo covers, traffic control, feed bunks, and water tanks.

Included in the law is a provision for other beneficial uses, to be approved by KDHE, if the use is shown to have a benefit to the person using them and not cause an adverse health or environmental effect. Other approved uses for whole waste tires are go-cart tracks, corrals, houses, garages, windbreaks for cattle, fish habitat, landscaping, and stream bank erosion controls. In addition, police departments have constructed tire houses to be used in live ammunition training exercises. Waste tire chips have been approved for use in septic leach fields, basement, garage, and driveway drainage sub-base, foundation drain backfill, road sub-base, and in drainage layers at landfills. Administratively, KDHE has decided that no approvals would be given for line fences due to the potential for fires and mosquito breeding.

